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Historical Highlights in Veterinary Medicine

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Historical Highlights

in Veterinary Medicine

- 1800—First graduate veterinarians from foreign colleges began arriving in U.S.
- 1833—Hog cholera appears in Ohio, first recorded outbreak of this disease anywhere in the world.
- 1843—Pleuropneumonia imported with infected dairy cows decimates livestock in 3 epidemics over 40 years.
- 1854—First U.S. veterinary college established in Philadelphia.
- 1861—Ontario Veterinary College established.
- 1863—United States Veterinary Medical Association — now American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) — established in New York by Alexandre Liautard.
- 1865—December 18. Law passed by Congress to prevent the spread of foreign animal diseases to the United States by restricting livestock importations.
- 1870—First known outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease in the U.S.
- 1879—Iowa State College establishes veterinary school at Ames — oldest existing veterinary college in U.S.
- 1883—May 1. A Veterinary Division, directed by Dr. D. E. Salmon, established in the U.S. Department of Agriculture. July 1. Investigation of Texas (cattle tick) fever begun.
- 1884—Bureau of Animal Industry established within the U.S. Department of Agriculture to control epizootics (animal epidemics).
- 1890—Federal meat inspection established and placed under administration of Bureau of Animal Industry.
- 1892—Contagious pleuropneumonia wiped out, making the U.S. first nation to eradicate the disease. First tuberculin test made in United States on Jersey herd in Pennsylvania, disclosing 30 reactors among 79 animals.
- 1893—Cattle tick fever research conducted by Drs. Fred L. Kilborne, Cooper Curtice, and Theobald Smith proves that insects may transmit infection between animals or from animals to man. This discovery laid the groundwork for Maj. Walter Reed's conquest of yellow fever.
- 1898—"Embalmed beef" scandals of Spanish-American War lead government to contract with veterinarians for food inspection to overcome special military problems of food transport and preservation under field conditions.

- 1902—Systematic campaign begun for suppression of dourine.
- 1906—Campaign starts to eliminate cattle tick fever from the U.S. Resulted in limiting tick-infested area to a narrow buffer area along the Rio Grande River in Texas. The area has remained under quarantine as a protective measure. Last outbreak of the disease occurred in August, 1949. Congress passes the law requiring Federal inspection of all meat moving in interstate and foreign commerce. Discovery of effective serum for protection against hog cholera officially announced.
- 1916—National Defense Act of 1916 establishes Veterinary Corps to inspect food, control animal diseases which may be transmitted to troops, and care for public animals in cavalry, artillery, and transport.
- 1917—Bovine tuberculosis eradication program launched.
- 1923—A veterinarian's — Dr. Frank Schofield — research on the cause of sweet clover poisoning in cattle leads to the isolation of a potent anticoagulant. The drug, dicoumarol, is used to treat patients with heart disease and has been instrumental in prolonging the life of man.
- 1924—Eradication of glanders in horses practically completed, as a result of vigorous measures begun in 1905.
- 1929—Last outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease. The infection is controlled and eradicated in the U.S.
- 1934—Bovine brucellosis eradication program launched.
- 1939—Regulations for rabies control programs developed by Committee on Rabies of the U.S. Livestock Sanitary Association.
- 1940—TB eliminated from more than 99.5% of all U.S. cattle making all states modified-accredited areas. Bone and glandular TB now are rare in man due to this accomplishment.
- 1941—Dr. Otto Stader, Illinois small animal practitioner, develops pin method for repair of bone fractures.
- 1948—Adaptation of canine distemper virus to embryonating eggs stimulates distemper research and development of chicken-embryo origin vaccines.
- 1949—Production and distribution of milk-ring brucella antigen begun by Animal Disease and Parasite Research Branch, at Beltsville, Md., for official testing in brucellosis program.
- 1951—Use of modified-live-virus vaccine for protecting swine against hog cholera begun.
- 1953—Rabies found in U.S. insectivorous and fructiferous bats.
- 1954—Dr. Alfred E. Earl, a New Jersey veterinarian caring for laboratory animals in a drug research firm, discovers the tranquilizing effect of reserpine and establishes a research project which uncovers — and is still uncovering — new tranquilizers for application in veterinary medical and human medical fields. Foot-and-mouth disease eradicated in Mexico with assistance by U.S. veterinarians. Research on exotic (foreign) animal diseases begun at Plum Island, N. Y., Animal Disease Laboratory.
- 1956—Col. Harry A. Gorman, USAF Veterinary Corps, develops an artificial hip joint for dogs and, working with medical orthopedists, successfully adapts the prosthesis to man. Isolation of pathogenic viruses by means of tissue culture, and development of vaccines by tissue culture methods.
- 1958—Screwworm eradication successful in Florida.
- 1959—Vesicular exanthema eradicated in swine.
- 1961—As a result of a brucellosis eradication campaign begun in 1934, 2,523 of the 3,125 counties in the United States and its possessions (more than 80 per cent) are now working to eradicate this costly livestock disease. At present, 25 states, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands are modified-certified brucellosis areas. In addition, 56 counties, including the entire state of New Hampshire, are brucellosis-free areas. Economic losses from this disease have been reduced from \$140 million to \$30 million. Undulant fever (brucellosis in man) has declined following the reduction of the disease in animals. American Veterinary Medical Association announces approval and all-out support of nationwide hog cholera eradication program.